

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 WASHINGTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02108

AREA	FORM NO.
0	498



City Lexington

Address 42 Percy Road

Historic Name Hiram A Janvrin House

Present two-family residence

Original residence

DESCRIPTION:

Year 1891

owner/inference

Source from subdivision date and style

Style Italianate

Architect _____

Exterior wall fabric clapboards

Outbuildings two garages

Major alterations (with dates) divided

into two-family house (early twentieth

century)

Moved _____ Date _____

Approx. acreage 25200 ft.²

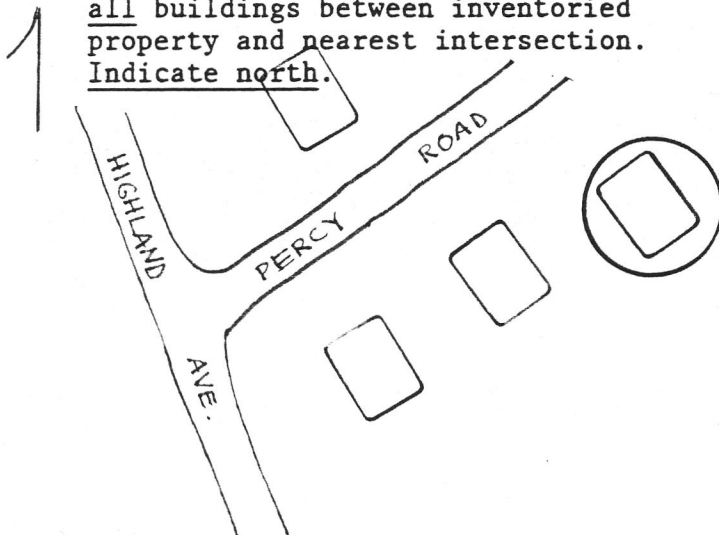
Setting Suburban residential street; a

mix of late nineteenth century and mid-

twentieth century houses.

SKETCH MAP

Show property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection. Indicate north.



Recorded by Anne Grady

Organization Lexington Historical Commission

Date March, 1984

(Staple additional sheets here)

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (Describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within the community.)

This large dwelling built in 1891 displays Italianate features popular several decades earlier: a central gable, paired brackets at the eaves, and corner panelled pilasters. The building retains cast iron cresting at the center of the hip roof, one of several examples of metal cresting in Lexington.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (Explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community.)

Hiram JanVrin, a hardware dealer in Boston, built the house in 1891. JanVrin was one of the largest stockholders in the Lexington Land Company, which developed the rest of the land on Munroe Hill adjacent to his property.

Social life of the new, more affluent residents of Lexington on Meriam and Munroe hills was chronicled by the local newspaper. A talent evening at the JanVrins in 1892, including recitations, charades, tableaux, and music, both instrumental and vocal, was a typical event.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES (name of publication, author, date and publisher)

Hudson, Charles. History of the Town of Lexington, revised and continued to 1912 by the Lexington Historical Society, Volume II, p. 322. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1913.

Lexington Minute Man, June 21, 1891, August 19, 1892.

Reinhardt, Elizabeth Wright. Unpublished doctoral dissertation, Boston University.